

**From:** Michele Murteza  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/9/01 4:14pm  
**Subject:** Comments on Microsoft - schools

To Whom It May Concern,

Since the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit found that Microsoft is a monopoly and acted illegally to maintain that status, a settlement based on the distribution of more Microsoft software seems truly ironic.

The assumption that Microsoft software in particular benefits schools "to prepare students for the business world" is not necessarily on target. One goal of technology education at the K-12 level aims at teaching software concepts, rather than vocationally training students on particular programs. That is, the same lessons can be learned from any "office suite" or via any "web browser" or on any "operating system" to adequately prepare students.

A true "public benefit" the settlement could provide would be to give the choice to schools, not Microsoft. For example, Microsoft could provide generic resources (e.g. cash, equipment, etc.) that leave the schools free to choose their own software technology.

Any benefit to the schools should be just that -- a benefit to those students. This settlement should NOT be a thinly veiled Microsoft cost saving benefit nor a new market channel! Thank you.

Michele Murteza  
A concerned citizen.  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
415-401-8494

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